Induction of Upgraded MIG-21s in Indian Air Force

2445. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the upgraded version of MIG-21 carried out its first public flight at the fly-past on Air Force Day, 2001; and

(b) if so, the number of such upgraded MIG-21s inducted in the Indian Air Force; and what modifications have been made therein and what place does the upgraded version occupy in the IAF inventory?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The induction of the upgraded aircraft in Indian Air Force (IAF) is planned to commence in the year 2002. The existing MIG-21 aircraft of the IAF will be upgraded with modern radar and avionics systems. The up-gradation will substantially enhance the operational capability of the MIG-21 Bis aircraft in its stated role in the IAF inventory.

Present strength of Territorial Army

2446. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the strength of the Territorial Army in the country is less than even 30 per cent of (1.37 lakh) as envisaged at the time of independence;

(b) if so, what is the present overall strength of the Territorial Army; and

(c) what were the precise functions of TA as envisaged at that time; and how far they have been watered down?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Territorial Army (TA) and some units of Navy and Air Force similar to TA were in existence at

the time of Independence. In 1949, the projected strength of the Territorial Army alone was 1.3 lakhs. Over the years, the territorial equivalents of the Navy and Air Force have ceased to exist and some of the Territorial Army units have been converted to regular army units. The current strength of the Territorial Army stands at 32,200 personnel.

(c) The role and function of Territorial Army, in 1951, included:
(i) relieve the regular army of static duties;
(ii) provide coastal defence and anti-aircraft units;
(iii) provide field formations and units for the regular army, as and when required.

These functions have undergone certain modifications over the years to suit the changinng internal and external security environment. The present functions of the force include carrying out static security duties, internal security duties and aid to civil authorities, as and when required.

Paltry Rent being paid by united services club, Mumbai

2447. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Services Club, Mumbai functioning on commercial lines is operating from defence land at a paltry annual rent of Rs. 0.36 lakh;

(b) if so, whether the Directorate of Defence Estate has assessed the value of the land at Rs. 55.00 crore and the annual rental at Rs. 2.73 crore, in 1998;

(c) whether the club is occupying defence land without Government sanction; and

(d) if so, steps being taken to evict the occupants and enforce revised rental tariff with retrospective effect?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Army authorities have informed that the